



**Statement of**

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**Before the**

**Congressional Human Rights Caucus**  
**Briefing on South Asian Earthquake**

**October 27, 2005**

Good afternoon. My name is Juliet Dulles and I work with World Vision as a Program Officer for projects in Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. World Vision is a Christian relief and development organization dedicated to helping children and their communities worldwide. We work in almost 100 countries, including Pakistan and India.

Fortunately, World Vision was present both in India and Pakistan when the earthquake hit. This facilitated our immediate response. We do have an earthquake response program in India at this time. Therefore, this briefing will focus specifically on our efforts in Pakistan.

World Vision staff in Pakistan responded immediately to the October 8<sup>th</sup> earthquake, assessing needs on the 9<sup>th</sup> in Manserha District where World Vision was active before the earthquake hit. Conducted in concert with Church World Service, Save the Children US, Action Aid Pakistan, and Sarhad Rural Support Program the rapid assessments indicated that 80 percent of structures were damaged or destroyed in Mahsehra alone.

Having coordinated target areas with United Nations agencies and other NGO personnel on the ground, World Vision is focusing activities in Mansehra district, where we can build on pre-existing relationships with local partners. World Vision has launched a \$15 million fund-raising campaign for the earthquake response and is providing relief to 15,000 families, focusing on less-accessible outlying areas. To date, World Vision has assigned 20 relief experts to coordinate our response in Pakistan, most from our Southeast Asia Rapid Response Team, and we are recruiting additional staff locally and internationally.

In keeping with a phased response approach, World Vision is mobilizing relief items that will meet people's basic needs in the coming winter months. So far, we have shipped over 300 metric tons of tents, blankets, water purification kits, trucks and generators in six airlifts, and two

sea shipments to Pakistan. The first two airlifts took place on October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, containing more than 30,000 blankets and 2,000 winterized tents. Since then World Vision has shipped additional tents, tarps, generators, prefabricated warehouses, four trucks and other items. Additional airlifts are planned for this week, carrying more than 10,000 more tarps and 8,000 tents.

World Vision is a child-focused organization and as such, child protection is a significant component of our relief and rehabilitation programming. Five child protection experts from World Vision traveled to Pakistan to set up child friendly spaces, which, in addition to providing children from pre-school to high school age with a safe environment, are intended to encourage children to return to a routine and structure by offering creative activities and games, as well as informal education. The first of these was established in Balakot this week. In addition, World Vision has conducted an inter-agency training in Mansehra concerning child protection, and has taken a lead role in this aspect of the relief and rehabilitation response in the area.

The child friendly spaces approach has been used successfully in Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, Iran and Chad in responding in culturally appropriate ways to the needs of children. The concept of a Child Friendly Space is based on the importance of creating a safe space for children mainly focused on restoring stability to a child's life through recreational activities.

As of today, World Vision has raised just under \$4 million for this response effort with approximately \$10 million in the pipeline. This includes funding from our partners in Australia, Canada, Germany, Korea, Taiwan and other countries.

The statistics related to this disaster are staggering. The U.N. estimates more than 32,000 children may have died in the quake and many thousands more were directly affected. Since World Vision's focus is "building a better world for children," we are especially moved by the grave consequences of this disaster for children. Prior to moving into the second phase of rehabilitation, additional funding for immediate relief needs is required. World Vision is calling upon the world to continue supporting the affected populations.